

# Concept note on CSO-LA Consultation on the EU Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa (2021-2027)

23 March 2021  
13h00-16h00 CET

## Overview

Policy dialogue and consultation with civil society organisations and local authorities are an important part of the European Union approach to international partnerships. As country, regional and thematic multi-annual indicative programmes are being developed to support EU international cooperation worldwide in the period 2021-2027, it is crucial to get input from civil society and local authority partners and stakeholders.

The consultation will focus on the future EU regional multiannual indicative programme for Sub-Saharan Africa. The webinar will provide an opportunity to discuss priorities and objectives of this programme within the context of the evolving partnership between Africa and Europe.

After the conclusion of the post-Cotonou Agreement between the EU and the 79 countries of the Africa Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the new NDICI Regulation will be the financing instrument for EU cooperation in all third countries and it will replace the European Development Fund (EDF) in terms of the cooperation with Africa, Caribbean and Pacific. This new instrument will provide financial flexibility, broadly similar to the one of the EDF. The on-going programming of the EU external budget aims to project the EU's values and interests in Africa through international partnerships based on its political priorities. EU's engagement with partner countries should therefore be policy-driven and based on mutual commitments.

The programming builds on the political priorities captured in the five partnerships proposed in the EEAS and European Commission Communication "Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa"<sup>1</sup>, as well as in the subsequent Council conclusions of 30 June and of 16 October 2020<sup>2</sup>. Reflecting longstanding ties and common values between the two twin continents, the strategy is framed by and reflects shared global commitments, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It also builds on the common priorities set by the EU and the African Union at the 2017 Summit in Abidjan. The strategy is therefore aimed at setting up an ambitious and modern partnership aimed at addressing, in a mutually beneficial manner, issues of shared concern for the future of both continents and to deliver on respective and mutual interests in key strategic areas of our relations.

To this end, this strategy emphasises the need (i) to deepen the partnership to promote, adapt, and, where necessary, reform the multilateral order; (ii) to promote democracy, good governance, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and inclusive and participative societies; (iii) to step up our efforts to ensure peace, security and stability; (iv) to promote mutually beneficial trade and investment; (v) to keep investing in people and empowering them, in particular young people, women and girls; (vi) to support a green transition; (vii) to pursue a vision of an inclusive digital economy and society; (viii) to strengthen the human dimension of the partnership through a people-centred

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020JC0004>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/06/30/on-the-path-to-a-deeper-and-stronger-partnership-living-up-to-the-european-and-african-aspirations-council-adopts-conclusions-on-africa/>  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/10/16/european-council-conclusions-15-16-october-2020/#:~:text=The%20European%20Council%20endorses%20the,continuing%20violence%20against%20peaceful%20protesters.>

approach; and (ix) to develop a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to migration and mobility.

The regional programming will equally build on priorities for Africa under the “post-Cotonou Agreement” to be concluded between the EU and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States. Support for continental and regional integration in Africa will remain a core priority for the EU and will complement cooperation under multi-annual indicative programmes with Sub-Saharan African partner countries. Under the EU Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) there will be one overall multi-annual indicative programme for Sub-Saharan Africa that will contain actions to be implemented at continental, regional and multi-country level, designed to support continental and regional dynamics in the most efficient manner with an objective-driven approach.

The consultation will gather participants representing CSO and LA global networks, regional networks and platforms present in Europe and Africa and will take advantage of virtual discussions undertaken in 2020 in the frame of the Policy Forum on Development. This consultation is broad and includes non-PFD members.

### **Participants will be able to:**

- Deepen the discussion on the EU multiannual programming exercise and get an overview of the main axes of the future regional program for Sub-Saharan Africa, currently under formulation;
- Share insights with EU representatives as country, regional and thematic multi-annual indicative programs are being developed for the period 2021-2027;
- Have a better understanding of EU priorities and how they may interplay with agendas and strategies in support of shared development goals in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- Contribute to the constructive, forward looking and ongoing dialogue with the EU with a view to integrating different stakeholder perspectives and recommendations.

### **Methodology and structure**

The meeting will bring together EU officials and representatives from CSOs and LAs from both Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe. The aim will be to go beyond a purely descriptive presentation of strategies, contribute to a collective reflection and gather input from participants.

The 3 hours event will be a moderated virtual discussion with 3 sessions. In the first plenary session the main rationale and objectives of the future regional programme for Sub-Saharan Africa will be presented, as well as the links between the regional programme and the EU new and comprehensive strategy with Africa. This session will be closed by clarifying questions from the audience.

The opening plenary session will be followed by breakout rooms focusing on key thematic areas

- 1 - Green transition
- 2 - Digital transformation and economic integration
- 3 - Investment and jobs,
- 4 - Peace, Governance and Human Development
- 5 - Migration and mobility

It is understood that in each break-out session, cross-cutting themes such as youth, gender, education, inequalities, the impact of COVID-19, will be mainstreamed in the reflection. Participation to each group will be pre-assigned in advance since the virtual breakout rooms will be closed.

Building on the questions used in other regional consultation meetings, the consultation could cover:

- How do the EU programming priorities relate to the key challenges faced by Sub-Saharan Africa? How do they connect to the priorities in your country, sub region or region?
- What aspects of EU priorities are especially relevant in moving forward and “rebuilding better” after COVID-19?
- How should the various dimensions of human development be addressed within the main components of the Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa?
- How do you see the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in advancing the priorities of the EU within the continental and regional cooperation with Africa?

The event will be concluded by a wrap-up session in plenary. A rapporteur from each sub-group will briefly present conclusions of the exchanges held. The moderator will briefly wrap up on the general discussion. Conclusions will be delivered by the EU representatives jointly with the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) LA and CSO co-chairs.

The consultation (on line) on the regional programming will remain open until 30 March, after the meeting. This option will allow participants to present written contribution after the meeting and consult their members in a more comprehensive and participatory manner.

## **Draft Agenda**

**13h00 – 13h35: Welcome and Introduction** - Presentation of the programming process, Regional Multi-annual indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027 and links with the priorities in the EU Africa Strategy – EEAS, DG INTPA

**13h40 - 14h00: Q&A** to exchange on the strategy and regional programming.

**14h00 - 15h15: Breakout rooms** to go deeper into topics:

- 1 - Green Transition
- 2 - Digital transformation and economic integration
- 3 - Investment and jobs
- 4 - Peace, Governance and Human Development
- 5 - Migration and mobility

Brief presentation from a representative of DG INTPA (who will be also in charge of the moderation of the session) followed by a discussion framed around guiding questions. The main objective is to collect questions and interventions from participants. A rapporteur for each group representing CSO/LA participants will be identified.

**15h15 - 16h00: Wrap up and conclusions**

A rapporteur from each sub-group will briefly present conclusions of the discussion which will have taken place. The moderator will briefly wrap up on the general discussion. Conclusions will be delivered by representatives of DG INTPA and PFD members.